

SSHLL Softball Farms Division

Revised and Approved 04.19.25

The Farms Girls Division follows the Rules in the Little Rule Book with the following modifications. If a rule is not listed below, then any ruling will default to the Little League Softball BOOK Rule for the current year.

The following is a guideline of the rules of play at Snug Harbor Little League, to be followed by all managers and coaches.

Section I: General Rules

- a. Official umpires are used for this division
- b. Regular Season: No inning may start after 1 hour and 40 minutes for farms, 1 hr 45 mins for minors and majors. Last inning must be declared by umpire and announced to both managers
- c. The manager and three (3) official coaches are allowed in the dugout. Only two coaches are allowed on the defensive field at one time, outfield only. The other coach(s) must remain in the dugout to keep order and maintain a safe environment.
- d. Fielding masks are mandatory for all players in the field
- e. No more than 5 runs can be scored in one inning. This rule does not apply to a team's last at bat.
- f. The minimum number of players in a game is eight (8) players.
- g. Regular season: a team must field at least six (6) of its own players to avoid a forfeit loss in the standings, the balance can be filled by replacement players (see section VI below)
- h. Playoffs: a team cannot use replacement players
- i. Manager's of both team's will exchange lineups before the game starts and are each responsible to keep a full book account of the game, not just for their team's at bats
- j. Mercy rule: If ahead by 10 after 4 complete (3.5 if home team ahead) innings, the "manager of the team with the least runs shall concede to the opponent. Note: (1) If the visiting team has a lead of 10 runs or more, the home team must bat in its half of the inning"
- k. If game ends in a Mercy rule, please turn score board runs off and continue to play "scrimmage" innings until time limit so that girls can continue to play.
- l. Only the on-deck batter is allowed in the on-deck area outside of the dugout. All other players must remain inside the dugout (No Exceptions). Failure to adhere to this rule will result in forfeit of the team in violation enforced by the umpire or Field Director.
- m. Coaches can occupy first base and third base designated coaching boxes, the dugout and on deck zone. No player/coach is allowed past the designated boundary in the dugout. Failure to adhere to this rule will result in forfeit of the team in violation enforced by the umpire or Field Director.

Section II: Pitching

- a. Players and coaches will pitch from 28 ft.
- b. First Half of Season:

1. Coaches pitch innings 1, 2, 4, 6
 2. Kids pitch innings 3, 5
 3. To encourage using multiple pitchers, 1 inning max per pitcher per game
- c. Second Half of Season & Playoffs:
1. Coaches pitch innings 1, 2, 5
 2. Kids pitch innings 3, 4, 6
 3. To encourage using multiple pitchers, 2 innings max per player per game
- d. If a pitcher walks three (3) batters in an inning, the coach for the hitting team will pitch for the rest of the inning. With respect to such, the following rules apply:
1. The coach must pitch from the pitching rubber
 2. The player pitcher must remain parallel to or behind the pitching rubber. The player pitcher must be within 4 feet of the rubber.
 3. When coach is pitching, there are no called balls, only called strikes, the batter is not awarded first base on a hit by pitch when the coach is pitching
 4. When coach is pitching a third called strike by the umpire is a strike out, the batter is out
- e. On a hit by pitch ruling when the pitcher is pitching, the ball is dead and the batter is awarded first base, the hit by pitch is charged to a pitcher's three walk inning limit.
- f. If there are three (3) trips to the mound in any one inning, the pitcher must be replaced. If there are four (4) trips to the mound in any one game, the pitcher must be replaced.

Section III: Hitting

- a. This division will use a CBO (Continuous Batting Order). This means all players present at the game will be in the batting order, regardless of whether or not they are playing a defensive position.
- b. First Half of Season: In the first inning we will not keep score and all players in the lineup will bat. The official score will begin to be kept starting in the 2nd inning. This is meant to ensure that all batters get up vs. coach and to get the kids used to Farms Division. Players can still strike out and make out on the bases.
- c. Second Half of Season & Playoffs: Regular rules and scoring apply. No more everyone bats in the first inning.

Section IV: Base Running

- a. There is no stealing and no leading. Runner must wait until ball is batted to leave the base.
- b. On a batted ball fielded by an outfielder runners may advance the bases at their own risk but cannot advance past the base they are heading towards (or standing on) once an infielder has possession of the ball in the infield dirt.
- c. On a batted ball fielded by an infielder batter and baserunners can only advance base to base, they cannot advance to the next base even on an errant throw.

- d. In an effort to speed up the game, the catcher may be replaced on the bases with the last batted out.

Section V: Fielding

- a. 10 players will play the field in the following positions (P,C,1B,2B,3B,SS,LF,LC,RC,RF)
- b. No infield fly rule
- c. There is no dropped third strike
- d. All players must play a minimum of 3 defensive innings in a complete game.

Section VI: Game Replacement Players

- a. Replacement players are allowed in the spirit of preventing forfeits and games not being played. Any Replacement player is considered to FILL IN and not considered a ROSTERED Player for the team in need.
- b. Replacement players MUST be approved by the Softball Director. If Softball Director cannot approve in time then the replacement players must be agreed to by both Managers.
- c. Managers should request replacement players at least 36 hours prior to the game in need.
- d. Replacement Players MUST Bat LAST in the order and MUST play the OUTFIELD at least two innings of a complete game. A replacement player should NOT take opportunities away from Rostered players. Replacement players cannot pitch or catch; if a replacement player pitches or catches without the approval of the Softball Director the penalty is a game forfeit.
- e. When a Manager requests a Replacement Player, this should be done when the Manager is 100% certain the player is needed. It will not be acceptable to have Replacement Players volunteer to attend a game, to have them sit on the bench.
- f. For Farms and Minors Manager should request the number of Replacement players that bring them up to 10 Players, for Majors up to 9 Players.

Team Duties and responsibilities (all softball divisions)

Both teams must work together to make sure rules are being followed.

We are here for the girls, not ourselves.

Home team

- I. Occupies first base dugout
- II. Supplies official scorekeeper if a parent from either team does not volunteer

Visiting Team

- I. Occupies third base dugout

Both teams

- I. Before game, marks field batter boxes and foul lines (work together)

- II. Before game, sets the portable mound up and measures from 28'
- III. After game, rakes field including infield, home plate area, pitching area, bases (work together)
- IV. After game, folds up and stores in shed the portable mound

Protesting Games

The manager must tell the umpire he/she wants to protest because a rule was broken *when it happens*. The manager must write down what occurred, and then send an e-mail to the president of the league with the details. The protest committee will decide the outcome.

Ejections/Misconduct

Any player, coach, parent ejected from a game must meet with Executive Board for review of the incident. Judgement and penalty for misconduct or ejections up to and including game suspensions and or complex/league bans (either temporary or permanent) will be at the discretion of the Executive Board.